

Summer Music Festival Guide

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July/August 2015 ■ Montana - The Land of Creativity

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana



Artists Innovation Awards

Apply online July 1-Oct. 1, 2015

In order to foster environments where the innovation and creativity of artists are valued and celebrated, this program rewards Montana artists who have demonstrated:

- Innovation in their work and artwork;
- Originality and dedication in their creative pursuits; and
- A marked capacity for self-direction.

Up to eight awards of \$3,000 each will be distributed in the performing arts, literary arts and visual arts combined.

For details and to apply, head to www.art.mt.gov.



Whitefish High student Jordan Reese plays his clarinet. (Greg Lindstrom/Flathead Beacon)

State of the Arts moves to quarterly 20-page paper beginning in October

By Arni Fishbaugh
MAC Executive Director

The Montana Arts Council (MAC) faced some very tough budget calls at its June 2015 meeting. The recent legislative session ended with global cuts applied to all agency budgets.

Throughout the years, MAC's budgets have been trimmed and pruned. These shaving techniques are not going to work this year, when more substantial reductions are necessary. The council chose a "share the pain" strategy to address this reality.

Sharing the budget pain *State of the Arts*

The council made a very painful decision to reduce the *State of the Arts* newspaper to four issues a year, instead of six. In addition, the number of pages will be downsized from 28 to 20. Readers will notice that

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Visit the Lively Times website at livelytimes.com (or pick up a copy at a nearby newsstand every month)

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we have begun page reduction in this issue, which is 24 pages instead of 28.

The pages to be eliminated are the calendar and opportunities sections, as well as the listing on the back inside cover of our agency programs and statewide arts service organizations. The next issue of the paper covers October-December 2015 (we'll skip the month of September).

See Arni's Addendum on page 2

Grandstreet giddy: Beloved theater teacher among Tony finalists

By Marga Lincoln
Reprinted with permission
from the *Independent Record*, June 4

Her students never doubted it. They thought Marianne Adams belonged up on stage as a star.

And June 7, at the Tony Awards, Adams, Grandstreet Theatre's beloved theater teacher and education director, was honored as one of the top three theater educators in the country, as a finalist for the Excellence in Theatre Education Award.

The winner is Corey Mitchell, theater arts teacher at the Northwest School of the Arts in Charlotte, NC. Adams and Donald Hicken, theater department director at the Baltimore School for the Arts in Baltimore, were the two top runners-up.

See "Grandstreet giddy" on page 5



Grandstreet Theatre education director Marianne Adams at the 2015 Tony Awards celebration.

Living Native culture comes to New York's Met

By Jaci Webb
Reprinted with permission
from the *Billings Gazette*, April 3

Three Native American artists from Montana had works on exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City through May 10, and I, for one, couldn't be any prouder.

For two of the artists, Northern Cheyenne Bently Spang and Crow artist Wendy Red Star, it was their debut at the Met and a thrill for them to be included in the exhibit, "The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky," which was on display March 9-May 10.

Juane Quick-to-See Smith, a member of the Salish Tribe, has exhibited throughout the world, including the Met. And Shania Hall, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe from Missoula, also participated in the show.

Most of us here in Montana likely won't have the chance to see the work of these Montana-born artists in New York, but we can appreciate the way Montana is being represented in such a big exhibit. Many of 130 pieces in the exhibit are from the 1800s and some are from

the 1700s. Some of the works were sitting in European closets hundreds of years ago. It is good to have them on display, if even temporarily, in the U.S. as part of this traveling exhibit, which began in Paris.

It is important that the exhibit includes contemporary works by Native artists because it helps viewers understand that Native culture is a living culture. It didn't stop in the 1800s when Native Americans were placed on reservations and it isn't limited to beadwork and ledger art.

Spang, who now lives in Billings, just wrapped up a month-long stint as the artist-in-residence at the Yellowstone Art Museum's Visible Vault, where among other projects he showed the process and the result of rubbings he made of trees burned in the Ash Creek fire that destroyed his family's ranch.

Spang complimented the show's curator, Gaylord Torrence of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, for his vision in adding contemporary art to the show.

See "Living Native culture" on page 7



"War Shirt #1" by Bently Spang from the collection of Sandra Spang (Image courtesy of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO; photographer Joshua Ferdinand)